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Denendeh Planning

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Managing Change is the Task

Chairperson's Message

Welcome to the second edition of *Denendeh Planning*, a newsletter created to keep you, the public, informed of progress that is being made in land use planning in the Denendeh region. Many of us recognize that change is underway whether we like it or not. Our intent at the Commission is to manage this change in the most positive way possible for all development parties. The question for those of us living in the region is: how do we best manage change to improve our future way of life, while holding on to those traditional values we really cherish. If you think there are any issues or topics that we should be considering, don't hesitate to contact any commissioner or staff member. We're continuing to meet with communities on a regular basis, so look for us when we're in your area.

David McCann
Chairperson - Denendeh Planning Commission

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Mackenzie River near Wrigley

Photo: Joan Campbell

Community Working Groups

During the next few months, the Denendeh Commission will be concentrating on the formation of Community Working Groups (CWG); residents in each community prepared to work part-time with the Commission for a three year period. The role will be one of providing representative opinion to the commission on topics to be discussed as part of the planning process. It is expected that about 6 people per community will normally be involved. Nominal daily participation 'per diem' payments will be offered to all CWG members. If you are interested in actively sharing in an exciting task which will determine the future Denendeh, be sure to phone a Regional Staff member at one of the numbers listed on the last page of this newsletter.

What's it all about?

We're often asked what the Denendeh plan is expected to do, and what force it will have when completed?

From the perspective of the Commission, the plan document which we will pass to the Ministers of government in 1992 will show the best possible land uses for Denendeh land, representing a balance of traditional and industrial uses. The plan should allow for the most important of traditional land uses to continue while also permitting new economic activities to take place. The plan will recognize potential land use conflict where it exists, and attempt to lay out options for compensation where conflict is inevitable. The particular mix of recommendations prepared by the Commission will be based on extensive consultation with all parties and residents.

In terms of its final force, the plan will be a guideline document to be used by land management agencies in the course of their work beyond 1992. The Dene/Metis Final Agreement when completed will create joint management boards which will be responsible for implementing plans. But until that time, existing government agencies will have most responsibility. Because of wide involvement with land users during the plan creation, it is expected that the document will have a powerful influence on all future developments. Future proposed land use schemes which do not conform with the plan may not be permitted or may stimulate further review of the plan.

Overall, the existence of a planning process should mean that the residents of Denendeh will have an increased amount of control over developments in their region.



Tom Unka - Commissioner

Photo: Joan Campbell

Introducing the Newest Commissioner

The newest Commissioner to join our organization is **Tom Unka** of Fort Resolution. Tom was born in Fort Resolution on the south shore of Great Slave Lake. Tom has worked for the Dene Nation and organizations in his community on various environmental and land claims issues. Recently, Tom has worked with the GNWT conducting wildlife research while also completing his Renewable Resource Technology diploma. As a lifelong hunter and trapper, Tom hopes that the work of the Commission will help to protect the traditional way of life.

Next, the Newest Facilitator

The newest facilitator to join the organization is **Angie Lantz** of Hay River, originally of Snowdrift. Angie has extensive experience with the Native Courtworkers Association of the N.W.T. Angie will be working closely with the many communities of the South Slave, and in conjunction with **Tom Unka**.

Deh Cho Regional Workshop Report

On February 27 and 28th, delegates from the nine (9) Deh Cho communities assembled for a two day workshop on Land Use Planing in Fort Simpson. This was the second workshop for this region. What made this workshop different was that unlike the first workshop, the Denendeh Land Use Planning Commission had been established.

The two day workshop covered such things as the Land Use program and process, an in-depth review of what Land Use Planning is, and a presentation by the Mackenzie-Delta Land Use Planning Program. For some of the delegates there was confusion on "Land Selections" and "Land Use Planning", and they inevitably thought that the two were the same. After reviewing the Land Use Planning Program and process with the Land Use Planning resource staff, the delegates found that there were some definite differences between the two. "Land Selections" is selecting lands for ownership; and "Land Use Planning" is planning for all the lands in Denendeh whether selected through land selections or not.

The delegates also had time to express their communities' concerns on land use related issues. A few that were mentioned were of environmental concerns such as the proposed Alberta Pacific pulp and paper mill in northern Alberta, low-level flights, the proposed extension of high tension electricity lines around the south and west shores of Great Slave Lake to Yellowknife, and group trapping areas. To close off the two day workshop, all the delegates and staff had time to wind down by enjoying a delicious meal planned for them. The delegates felt that they had a better understanding of what Land Use Planning was all about. Thanks to all the communities that attended this informative workshop!!

by Mike Nadli, Fort Simpson

*"....Change is
underway
whether
we like it
or not "*

Budget Tracking Study

In an effort to ensure that all monies are used in the most efficient way possible (so that the public get the best value possible for the amount of money being spent), the Commission has hired Hinche, Williams, Avery and Cooper, a Yellowknife management firm, to examine our spending practices and accounting procedures. As part of the study, the various planning partners will be interviewed and attend workshops on financial management/accountability. The consultants will produce working tools in the form of micro-computer programs which will help planning staff to report in a better and faster way than they have been able to do in the past. With improved quality and more frequent information in hand, it is expected that the Commission will be able to respond more quickly to emerging situations while managing budgets more effectively.

Commission Meeting and Regional Workshops:

Sah-tu Workshop	21 March
South Slave Workshop	19-20 March
North Slave Workshop	21-22 March
Commission meeting	26-27-28 March

Land Claims & Land Use Planning

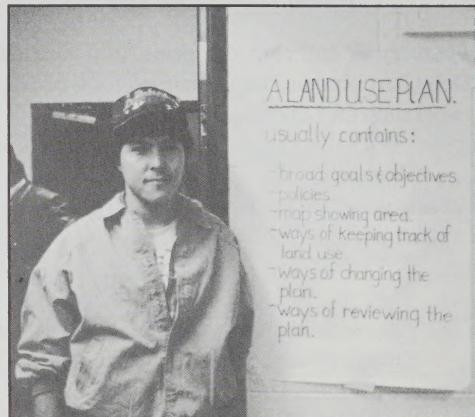
When the Denendeh Commission travels into communities one of the first questions often asked is "What's the difference between land use planning and land claims?" While both claims and planning focus on land there are several important differences between the two processes.

The Dene/Metis are negotiating a settlement of their aboriginal rights with the federal government. Central to the land claims talks are land and resources. Through a final settlement the Dene/Metis will acquire ownership to 70,000 square miles (181,300 sq. km.) of land and participation in joint management of the entire settlement area. Land ownership acquired by the Dene/Metis will amount to around 20 percent of the entire settlement area.

Land use planning on the other hand is a public process which attempts to develop plans for the total land (and water) surface of Denendeh. Denendeh covers approximately 370,000 sq. mi. (960,000 sq. km.) in size. The Denendeh Commission, through consultation with community residents, native organizations, industry and government will be developing plans to guide how land in the Dene/Metis Settlement Area will be used in the future. Land use planning is a process concerned with management of land use and not with actual ownership. Plans will identify guidelines for land use and will be used by land managers to determine what type of development will be allowed and under what conditions it will be allowed. As conditions change plans will be revised to ensure they represent current conditions.

In short, land claims is about land ownership while land use planning concerns itself with how all land is used and preserved.

Editor's note: The above question is raised so often, it was thought useful to repeat this explanation from the first edition.



Jimmy Deneron - Trout Lake

Photo: Joan Campbell

Spotlight on the Sahtu

July - October 1987 - The first round of community workshops were held to inform people of the land use planning program so that when the Commission was set up, the communities would be able to effectively take part in planning.

January - June 1988 - A second round of community visits and workshops were held to identify specific issues and concerns in each community, and to introduce the planning process.

December - March 1989 - A third round of community visits were held to introduce the newly formed Denendeh Planning Commission, to explain its mandate, and to gather input on the development of its terms of reference/workplan.

January 1990 - A pilot computer-based Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) mapping project was produced for the Fort Franklin area.

March 1989 - A regional workshop is scheduled to be held in Fort Franklin on March 21. The purpose is to provide an update of planning activities to date, to discuss the formation of community working groups and next years' workplan for the region.

Upcoming Activities

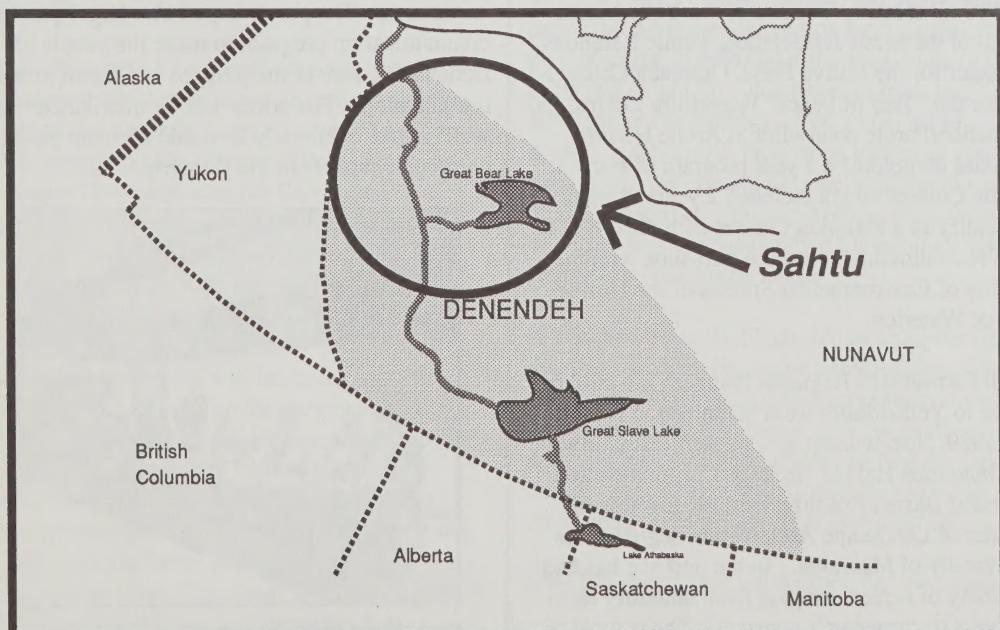
- Establishment of community working groups whereby communities can participate effectively in planning.
- Gathering of information, including mapping of community and non-community land use, to identify potential conflicts, and establish priorities.
- Identifying options, opportunities and alternatives regarding land use and exploring the negative and positive aspects of each alternative.
- Holding workshops to identify and analyze issues and bring together interested parties.
- Deciding on preferred alternatives and preparing an options paper and draft land use plan.

These are some of the general activities that are planned for the upcoming year in Sahtu. Dates

and timelines for each of these activities will vary according to the needs and schedule of each community.

Important Sahtu Land Use Issues

- Proposed pipeline development.
- hydro dam proposal on Bear River.
- No control by communities on land use issues.
- Land to Dene/Metis not only has economic value, but an important spiritual value.
- Land base is needed both for long term economic development and for traditional pursuits such as hunting, trapping and fishing.
- Greater management control over Gt. Bear Lake
- Tourism business opportunities are desired.



General location of Sahtu region in Denendeh

Presenting the Staff

Nick Lawson - Regional Manager - Nick is originally from mainstream Canada where he graduated from university in Environmental Resource Science and Geography. All of Nick's employment experience is in the N.W.T. He worked with Dene Nation as an environmental researcher, reviewing and responding to land use applications. There, he provided input to claims negotiations, and conducted research to counter moves made by the anti-trapping movement. Nick has also worked for the GNWT as a Habitat Management Technician, and for the Metis Association on a land selection project. Nick has been employed with the Dene/Metis Negotiations Secretariat since May of 1988.

Tim Beaulieu - Planning Officer - Yellowknife-born Chipewyan Dene, Tim was brought up and completed his schooling for the most part in the N.W.T. Tim has held several job positions in the past that have included the Canadian Air Force; the Executive Director of the Indian Brotherhood-N.W.T., Executive Director of the Yellowknife Local of the Metis Association, Public Relations manager for the Native Press, Outreach Counsellor for the "Tree of Peace" Friendship Centre, and Probation/Parole counsellor at Arctic House. Tim has completed a 3 year program of study at Arctic College which included 2 years of training to qualify as a Planning Officer with the GNWT. Tim is continuing his studies part-time with the faculty of Environmental Studies of the University of Waterloo.

Joan Campbell - Regional Planner - Up until her move to Yellowknife from Winnipeg in November 1989, Joan worked as a writer/illustrator with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and attended classes full-time working towards the Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Manitoba. In the past she has had a variety of careers ranging from laboratory technologist to carpenter's assistant. She is looking

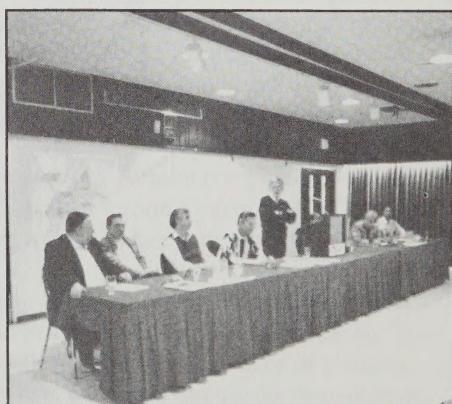
forward to a challenging and rewarding working experience with the Commission.

Chuck Williams - Community Resource Officer - Chuck currently resides in Yellowknife with his family and is employed by the DIAND Land use Planning Office, seconded to the Denendeh Planning Commission. Chuck brings with him experiences with both the Federal and Territorial governments, and more recently was involved with the construction and operation of the IPL pipeline. Chuck will play an important role in ensuring that the lines of communication remain open.

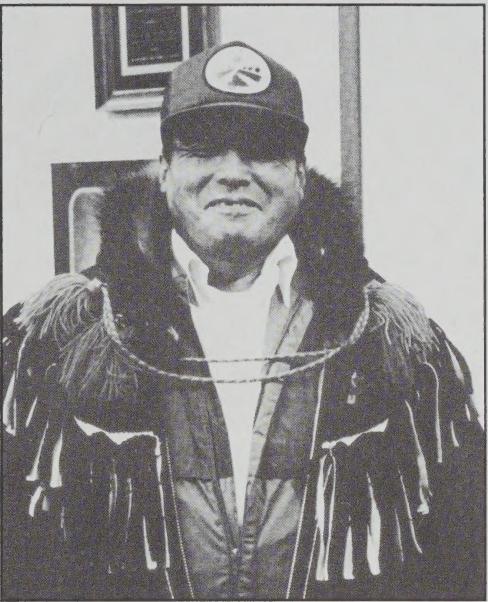
Next issue, we'll present Regional Staff.

New Denendeh Poster

In April of this year, the Commission will be making available a large wall poster highlighting the planning effort. Images on the poster will suggest a range of land uses that could be found in our area. The poster is part of a larger public communication program to make the people of Denendeh aware of the purpose and intent of land use planning. The poster will be distributed widely, and eventually be found in many public community spaces in the Western Arctic.



Commission meets Yellowknife public Photo:Campbell



Joe Migwi - Commissioner

Photo: Joan Campbell

Land Policy Study

In an effort to ensure that all planning parties understand the large number of land administration policies and regulations currently in place, the Commission has (jointly with the Nunavut Planning Commission to the East) hired Dan McKinnon of Public Affairs North 60°, an Ottawa consulting firm, to summarize all land policies that might have any impact on land use planning in the Denendeh region.

Mr. McKinnon's firm will be reporting to us within the next month on the variety of regulations and policies that might have some bearing on our planning efforts. With better quality background information in hand, it is expected that communities, staff, and Commissioners will be able to make better decisions with regard to future use of land. The report will be available to anyone by calling the Commission office.

Commission Terms of Reference

The Commission terms of reference currently being prepared originate with the 1983 Basis of Agreement. The current document is tailored to the more specific needs and goals of land use planning in the Dene/Metis Settlement Area. Based on an initial tour of communities made in the last months of 1989, and early 1990 write-in submissions by organizations and communities; Commission staff have prepared a working terms of reference for consideration by Commissioners. The working document will be presented to the Commission members during the next scheduled meeting in Norman Wells on the 26, 27, and 28th of March, 1990 for approval.

The Alpac Mill Decision

With the recent decision to put off approval of the construction of the proposed Alberta Pacific Mill for a year, Commissioners and staff feel that people of the Denendeh region have gained some precious time to reconsider the total range of impacts that might flow downstream from this development and others. The whole water quality question will have to be looked at very carefully in the context of multi-mill development on the Athabasca, Peace and other rivers feeding into the Mackenzie watershed for eventual discharge into the Arctic Ocean.

While the Denendeh Commission understands that there are already many agencies involved in regulation of pulp mill construction/operation , the Commission also sees a role for itself in assisting residents and industry to find the right mix of controls and benefit packages to offset land-based costs of industrial development.

Stand-by for further information on this topic.

Feed back!!

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE LAND AND RESOURCE USE IN THE WESTERN NWT?

How do you think that orderly development should best proceed with minimal environmental disruption and maximum benefits to residents?

If you are concerned about these or other related issues then the Denendeh Commission would like to hear from you. If you feel there are certain issues which need to be addressed through land use planning or if you just want to be kept informed about the Commission's activities please fill in the following form and send it to the Commission at the address below.

The Denendeh Planning Commission should address the following issues during the preparation of the Plan:

Please add my name to the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Community: _____

Postal Code: _____

Cut out this coupon and send to:

Denendeh Planning Commission
Box 2280
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7



Denendeh Planning newsletter is published by the Denendeh Planning Commission in their Yellowknife offices. Information is prepared by staff assigned by the three contributing partner-organizations: Dene/Metis Secretariat, GNWT Renewable Resources, and the DIAND Northern Land Use Office. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of any of the partner organizations. Information is provided to inform the residents of progress on the Denendeh Plan. Planning office staff and Commissioners welcome your comments on issues important to you.

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